

Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-06 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00

EB-07 INR-07 LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 /058 W

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R 240630Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1938

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

USMISSION GENEVA

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L JIDDA 5224

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ELAB, USSAEC, SA, US

SUBJECT: SAUDI ARABIA JOINS ILO

SUMMARY: SAUDI ARABIA HAS JOINED THE INTERNATIONAL LABOR ORGANIZATION (ILO) WITHIN THE PAST WEEK. THIS STEP WOULD MOST PROBABLY HAVE NOT OCCURRED UNDER KING FAYSAL AND IT HAS POTENTIAL IMPLICATIONS FOR US VIEW OF ILO. END SUMMARY.

1. WE HAVE JUST LEARNED FROM AN EXCELLENT SOURCE THAT SAUDI ARABIA HAS INFORMED THE INTERNATIONAL LABOR ORGANIZATION THAT IT WISHES TO JOIN THAT ORGANIZATION AS A FULL-FLEDGED MEMBER. IT WILL LIKELY BE ACCREDITED TO OBSERVER STATUS UNTIL THE NEXT GENERAL MEETING OF THE ORGANIZATION. THE HEAD OF THE ILO IS EXPECTED TO VISIT THE COUNTRY LATER THIS YEAR OR EARLY 1976.
 2. THE DECISION WAS APPARENTLY BASED ON THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE TECHNICIANS IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOR AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS, AND PARTICULARLY THE BELIEF OF DIRECTOR GENERAL MOHAMMED FAYEZ, THAT SAG HAD MUCH TO GAIN FROM TRAINING
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PROGRAMS, AND EXPERTISE OF THE UN ORGANIZATION.

APPLICATION FOR ILO ASSISTANCE IN VOCATIONAL EDUCATION
IS EXPECTED TO BE MADE SHORTLY.

3. COUPLED WITH THE CONTINUED AND INCREASING IMPORTANCE
OF THE GERMAN EFFORT IN THE FIELD OF VOCATIONAL EDUCATION,
AND THE UN PRE-VOCATIONAL TRAINING INSTITUTIONS (ONE OF
WHICH WAS JUST OPENED AT DAMMAM), THE USE OF ILO EXPERTS
WILL HAVE TO BE PHASED IN WITH THE MASSIVE US JOINT COM-
MISSION EFFORT NOW BEING EVALUATED IN WASHINGTON.

4. OUR SOURCE POINTED OUT THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS CHANGE
IN ATTITUDE TOWARD WHAT KING FAYSAL HAD CONSIDERED TO BE
A DISRUPTIVE AND RADICAL INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION. IN
ADDITION TO THE INTERNAL SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS DECISION,
THE APPEARANCE LATER THIS YEAR OR EARLY NEXT OF THE HEAD
OF THE ILO IN SAUDI ARABIA WILL BE SYMBOLIC OF SAUDI
ARABIA'S ASSUMPTION OF THE ROLE FORMERLY PLAYED BY
THE U.S. IN INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS.

5. EMBASSY WOULD BE INTERESTED IN AN INR OR DEPARTMENT
OF LABOR EVALUATION OF THIS DEVELOPMENT.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MEMBERSHIP, INTERNATIONAL LABOR ORGANIZATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 JUL 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975JIDDA05224
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750255-0209
From: JIDDA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750726/aaaaaxfv.tel
Line Count: 83
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21 MAY 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <22 MAY 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SAUDI ARABIA JOINS ILO SUMMARY: SAUDI ARABIA HAS JOINED THE INTERNATIONAL
TAGS: ELAB, SA, US, USSAEC
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006